

REMARKS

Claims 5-10, 12-14, 17-27, 31, 33-42, 44-46, and 48-51 are pending. Claims 5-10, 12-14 and 17-27 have been allowed. Claims 31, 33, 36, 41, 42, 45, 46, and 48-51 have been amended and claims 1-4, 11, 15, 16, 28-30, 32, 43, and 47 have been canceled. It is respectfully submitted that none of the amendments presented herein raise new issues requiring further searching or consideration by the Examiner.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

In the Final Office Action, claims 32, 33, 36, 40, 41, 43, 45, 47 and 49 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten into independent form to include the features of their base and intervening claims. Equivalently, claim 31 was amended to recite the features of allowable claim 32, claim 33 was amended to depend from claim 31, and claims 36 and 41 were rewritten into independent form.

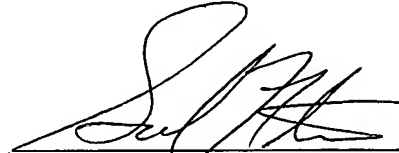
In addition, claim 42 was amended to recite the features of allowable claim 43, claim 45 was rewritten into independent form, claim 46 was amended to recite the features of allowable claim 47, and claims 48 and 49 were rewritten into independent form. Finally, claim 50 was amended to recite the features similar to those recited in allowable claim 32 and claim 51 was amended to depend from claim 50.

It is respectfully submitted that these amendments are sufficient to overcome the rejections in the Final Office Action and to place the entire application in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and allowance of the application is respectfully solicited.

Serial No. 10/748,298

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 23-1951 and please credit any excess fees to the same Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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